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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Iron and Steel Works

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1. The survey below deals with thirteen of the more important iron and steel producers in the Russian Zone. Eight of these plants belonged formerly to the Flick Group. Data are supplied on former production capacity, dismantling, and the nature of present production.

2. Plants formerly belonging to the Flick Concern:

a. Mitteldeutsche Stahlwerke Riesa: The works originally comprised an open-hearth steel plant, a bar iron rolling mill with Mittel- und Feinstrassen, a tube rolling mill, an extrusion tube press (Strangrohrpresse), plus a tank (Behälter) and pipe line construction plant. In 1943-1944 crude steel production amounted to 360,000 tons per year. The following installations have, however, been dismantled: the steel works, the rolling mill, the tank and pipe line construction machinery, and half the factory buildings. The remainder of the buildings and part of the out-moded machine tools remain intact.

By virtue of Reconstruction Order No. 307, some of the plant installations were rebuilt. There are at present two small open-hearth furnaces in operation producing cast steel and ingots which are supplied to other rolling mills. In addition, the factory has reacquired a tank (Behälter) construction plant which delivers to Krupp-Gruson, Magdeburg, in connection with Reparations Order No. 50, concerning the production of cement machinery for Russia. At present crude steel production amounts to 12,000 tons per annum at this factory. However, in order that production may be increased to approximately 250,000 tons per year, reconstruction of the steel works and rolling mills has been ordered. The factory is state-owned.

b. Mitteldeutsche Stahlwerke Gröditz-Riesa: These works formerly included an open-hearth steel plant, forging press works, a rolling mill, plus a steel foundry and fitting factory. During the war the plant produced gun barrels, projectiles, locomotives, and wagon wheel sets. In 1943-1944 crude steel production totaled 140,000 tons per year. The works have

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been completely dismantled and only a few factory buildings remain standing. No reconstruction order has been issued.

- e. Mitteldeutsche Stahlwerke Lauchhammer: Before dismantling, this factory possessed an electric steel works producing 7,000 tons per year, a steel foundry with enamelling works producing bathtubs, and a foundry which specialized in art castings (Kunstgiesserei). The works also included a large machine factory and steel-construction workshops specializing in the construction of lignite mining equipment. These works were the largest German producers of lignite mining equipment and operated in combination with a lignite mine and power installations.

The entire works have been dismantled; however, half of the actual buildings remain intact. Also dismantled were the 400 meter long conveying bridges (Förderbrücke) of the lignite mine and seventy-five per cent of the power installations and equipment. The works have resumed art casting production (monuments for the occupation army) and have established a construction office for bridge repairs, specifically for the Oder Bridge in Frankfurt, the Elbe Bridge at Wittenberg, and the Rüdendamm Bridge. The resumption of lignite mining with single excavation machines and the reconstruction of the machine factory for lignite mining equipment are now planned. The plant is a state-owned enterprise.

- d. Sächsische Gußstahlwerke Döhlen, Freital: This plant originally owned an open-hearth steel works, an electric steel works, a rolling mill, and a hammer mill. The normal production program usually concentrated on the production of high-quality steel. During the war the works also produced ammunition, mainly armor-piercing grenades. In the years 1943-1944 crude steel production amounted to 200,000 tons per year. The entire works have been dismantled and the buildings scrapped.
- e. Mitteldeutsche Stahlwerke Brandenburg: The works formerly comprised an open-hearth steel plant, an electric steel plant, a rolling mill and a steel foundry. During the war the works produced tanks. In the years 1943-1944 crude steel production totaled 450,000 tons per year. The whole works, including the factory buildings, have been dismantled; the foundations were blasted out.
- f. Mitteldeutsche Stahlwerke Hennigsdorf: This factory included an open-hearth steel works, an electric steel works, a rolling mill, and a steel foundry. In the years 1943-1944 crude steel production amounted to 150,000 tons per year. The entire plant was dismantled, but most of the buildings are intact. At present there is no crew, and no production. A plan has been made to reconstruct the works as an open-hearth steel works with a rolling mill and to resume its former annual output of 150,000 tons.
- g. Mitteldeutsche Stahlwerke Spandau: These works had an open-hearth steel plant, an electric steel plant, a steel foundry, and a "Feinstrasse." During the war the works cast grenades of electric steel. The installations have been dismantled by the Russians down to the buildings themselves. Scrapping of the buildings by the British is now planned.

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3. Plants formerly independent or belonging to other concerns :

- a. Maximilianhütte Unterwellenborn: These works owned several iron ore mines, a blast furnace works, Thomas steel works, an electric steel works, and a rolling mill. During the war, in addition to crude steel, the works produced grenades in the Thuringian press works. In the years 1943-1944, crude steel production amounted to 220,000 tons per year. The Thuringian press works, along with the equipment for the production of grenades, were dismantled; the rest of the works remains intact. Present production totals about 40,000 tons of pig iron per year and 100,000 tons of Thomas crude steel. According to plan, crude steel production will be brought back to its pre-war level of 200,000 tons per year. The works were transferred to a Soviet AG for a certain time but then turned over to Land Thuringia, which is their present proprietor.
- b. Eisenhüttenwerke Thale: The works owned an open-hearth steel plant, an electric steel plant, a rolling mill, and a foundry with enamelling works for the production of bathtubs and household articles. In the years 1943-1944, crude steel production amounted to 30,000 tons per year. These works were not dismantled and, at the present time, are producing light and heavy sheet metal from a crude steel output of approximately 70,000 tons per year. The crude steel production is scheduled to be increased to 100,000 tons per year. After a period as a Soviet AG, the works were turned back to Land Thuringia, their present owner.
- c. Krupp-Gruson Magdeburg-Buckau: The works have a small open-hearth steel plant, an electric steel works with hammer works, and machine construction installations. In the years 1943-1944, crude steel production amounted to 15,000 tons per year. The works are for the most part intact; present crude steel production totals approximately 12,000 tons per year. The factory, which is of secondary importance as an iron and steel producer, is at present a Soviet AG.
- d. Other minor producers of crude steel: Meier & Weichelt, Leipzig; Rudolf Sack, Leipzig; Krauthelm, Chemnitz. These plants are for the most part intact. Rheinmetall-Borsig in Tegel is being dismantled at present. In the years 1943-1944, the four works mentioned above produced together approximately 100,000 tons of crude steel per year. At present, the combined production of these firms amounts to about 30,000 tons per year.

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